Government of India
Ministry of Culture

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF INDIA ANNUAL REPORT
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1. General overview of recent major developments

1.1 Background of National Library

Calcutta Public Library was established in 1836. The Imperial Library was founded in 1891 and was formally opened to the public on 30 January 1903 at Metcalf Hall, Kolkata. The aims and objectives of the Imperial Library were well defined in a Notification in the *Gazette of India* The policy of acquisition broadly adhered to by the Imperial Library was outlined by Lord Curzon in his speech at the inauguration

1.2 After Independence the Government of India changed the name of the Imperial Library to the National Library, with the enactment of the Imperial Library Act, 1948, and the collection was shifted from the Esplanade to the present Belvedere Estate. On 1st February 1953, the National Library was opened to the public, by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. The first official website of the National Library (www.nlindia.org) was launched on 22 January 2002

1.3 The National Library of India is India's library of public record. The library is situated on the scenic 30 acre Belvedere Estate in Kolkata and the total covered area in the library buildings is 62,825.157 sq.m. The library is designated to collect, disseminate, preserve and store the Nations intellectual and cultural heritage materials in the form of printed and non-printed materials produced in India. It is also India's sole repository library where all books, publications and official documents in its custody have to be stored in perpetuity.

2. Relationship of Government

Library service comes under the aegis of State Governments and the States vary in their size, population, literacy rate, production of literature in regional languages and library infrastructure. In India, there are 54,856 public libraries (Survey Report ORG-MARG) starting from English Colony Library at Chennai in 1661.

2.1 Background for development of Public Library System in India:

The beginning of the public library systems in India dates back as early as 1910. His Highness Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III, Maharaja of Baroda, pioneered the development of Public Library System in India. It is mind-boggling to learn that even a century ago the Maharaja arranged purchase of a Photostat camera and a camera projector by the State. He started Library Associations from Taluk level, organized 'Mitra Mandal' in the town and village libraries and organized regular library conferences. Mobile library service was organized to cater to the book need at remote villages.

2.2 The year 1972 is a significant year in the history of library movement in India. 1972 was declared as International Book Year with the slogan BOOKS FOR ALL. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) was established in May, 1972 by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India to spread library services all over the country in cooperation with State Governments, Union Territory Administration and Organisation working in the field.

2.3 The Ministry of Culture Government of India exercises administrative supervision over six public libraries.

2.3.1 *The National Library* is the apex body of the library system of India and functions as a subordinate office of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It has a dual function, as a National Library and as a public library.

2.3.2 *The Rampur Raza Library* at Rampur, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, was founded by Nawab Faizullah Khan in 1774 is a treasure house of Indo Islamic learning and arts ,inherited collection of valuable rare manuscripts, historical documents, Mughal miniature paintings, books and other works of art kept in the Nawabs Toshakhana.

2.3.*3* *The Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library*, Patna, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture,stands a unique repository of about 21000 Oriental manuscripts and 2.5 lakh printed books. Though founded earlier, it was opened for public in October, 1891

2.3.*4* *Delhi Public Library* was started as a UNESCO project in the year 1951 & was inaugurated by first Prime Minister of India Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It has developed into a premier Public Library System in the metropolitan city of Delhi. DPL has a network of Zonal Libraries, Branches & Sub-branches, R.C.Libraries, Community Libraries, Deposit Stations, Mobile Library, Braille library, spread all over Delhi. DPL is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

2.3.5 *The Central Secretariat Library* is an attached office under Ministry of Culture and one of the oldest libraries of the Government of India. It dates back to 1891 when the Imperial Secretariat Library was established in Kolkata (Calcutta).In terms of size of collection it is the second largest Central Government library after the National Library, Kolkata.

2.3.6 <u>Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF)</u> is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

2.4 <u>PUBLIC LIBARY LEGISLATION</u>:

Even before Independence Kolhapur Princely State in the Western India passed Public Libraries Act,1945.

The Delivery of Books And Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act, 1954 is an Act to provide for Delivery of Books to the National Library, Calcutta, and other public libraries. It was enacted by Parliament in the Fifth Year of the Republic of India and it extends to the whole of India. A new Act "The Deposit of Books, Newspapers and Electronic Publications in Libraries Bill 2013" repealing the old Act is under consideration.

So far 19 States of the Indian Union have successfully passed the library legislation.

2.5 <u>NATIONAL MISSION ON LIBRARIES</u>:

The National Mission on Libraries (NML) was launched by the Hon.'ble President of India on 3rd February,2014. NML has a budget allocation of Rs. 400 Crores with the objective of establishing a National Virtual Library of India, establishment of Model Libraries, quantitative/ qualitative survey of Libraries and capacity building. Under the scheme, 6 libraries under the Culture Ministry, 35 Central Libraries in states and 35 District Libraries are to be developed as model libraries , with emphasis on developing these libraries in economically backward districts. Further, 629 district libraries across the states would be provided network connectivity. For setting up of the model libraries, existing libraries would be identified in consultation with the state governments to improve infrastructure and upgrade technology used by them.

3. **Key facts and figures**

3.1 <u>Plan Allocation & Expenditure for public libraries administered by the Ministry of Culture</u>

The annual plan allocations for the years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 are Rs. 64.90 crores Rs.74.15crores and Rs. 121.96 crores respectively.

3.2 <u>The Budget /Grants for National Library are as follows:</u>

(Rs. in crores)

Libraries/ Fin. Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
National Library, Kolkata	16.00	16.00	17.25

3.3 It is difficult to record precisely the number of visitors to the library owning the multiplicity of services. The Annual Membership is free. The National

Library has a separate division for children and no formal membership is needed for the children to use the Children's Library.

3.4 Total volume: More than 2.2 million books

3.4.1. Rare books The division has 4700 monographs, 3000 manuscripts and 1500 microfilms in a separate division established in 1973.

3.4.2. Manuscripts This division has about 3600 rare and historical important manuscripts indifferent languages The xylographs presented by H. E. the Dalai Lama are preserved in this collection.

3.4.3 Foreign official documents It is one of the repository libraries for UNO and its agencies. All the publications of UN and its agencies are received by the library free of cost.

 3.4.4 Maps and prints The library has an extensive collection of maps from the 17th century onwards. Indian topographical sheets of earlier days (at scale of one inch, half-inch and quarter-inch to a mile) of India form the major part of the collection. At present the library has 85,000 printed maps, 54 cartographic manuscripts, and 280 atlases

3.4.5 Microforms The library has around 500 rolls of microfilms and 1000 microfiches which are preserved in the Rare Books division. The Census of India (1872–1951) is one of the most important and rare document available in the form of microfiches.

3.4.6.Personalised Collections gifted There are approximately 1,50,000 titles gifted by Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, Buhar (Persian), Sir Dadunath Sircon Sapru papers and others.

3.5 Conservation Activities
One of the basic functions of the National Library is to conserve the printed heritage for future generations. For this purpose the library has separate divisions for physical, chemical, reprographic and digital conservation.

3.6 Reprographic preservation
Most of the 19th century newspapers, Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit manuscripts have already been microfilmed. 5000 rolls of microfilms are already produced so far by the Reprography division.

3.7 Digitization
English books and documents published before 1900 and Indian publications preceding 1920 are considered for digitization. 9140 selected books in Indian and English languages i.e. over 3.2 million pages have already been scanned and stored in CDs and DVD

4. New Developments in creating and Building Collections

4.1.1 National Library has recently submitted a Project proposal to the Ministry of Culture for the funding of the project "Centre for Word" under the NML. This Centre of Word will be consisting of Archivist, Museum representatives, Librarians, Culture and heritage. Collaboration in the sense that the National Archives of India, National Mission on Manuscripts and the National Mission on Libraries work together in terms of identifying ,preserving ,conserving and showcasing the historical and cultural heritage of our country.

4.2 e-Resource Centre with 75 seats has been established.

4.3 Compilation of exhaustive bibliographies on special topics are under way.

4.4 The third phase of the Digitization Project started from 31 Jan 2012, around 3,200 bengali books already been scanned

4.5 A separate Training HRD division was formed in 2010 to plan and co-ordinate training programmes and monitor staff development needs.

4.6 The Library introduced online journals which include around 7000 academic and research journals subscribed from major international publishers. A Directory of online journals has been published for the benefit of the users.

4.7 The database of 2.7 million full text dissertation and thesis from 700 leading academic institutions has been procured. The data base of 125000 digitized early printed English Books (EEBO) published between 1475 to 1700 has been procured.

4.8 E-reference and E Books (4000) have been procured. The Library has planned to acquire J Gate, I-Scholar and World e books

5. New Developments in Managing Collections.

5.1 The ICT infrastructure has been upgraded to support the various electronic resources and services including the electronic catalogues and databases. Microfilming of rare, old and brittle newspapers has been initiated.

5.2 Training programmes are being organized on VIRTUA Library Management System software which is the application software of the National Library of India.

6. New Developments in Providing Access to Collections

6.1 The Library has introduced the dynamic website to make the online database accessible to the users. The users can access around 9 lakh data at www.nationallibrary.gov.in

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (Libraries, Archives and Museums).

7.1 International library co-operation:

7.1.1 The Government of India has an agreement with more than 100 Libraries in the world for exchange of resources and personnel.

7.1.2 International Book Fair is held every year at New Delhi in the month of February

7.2 Library co-operation in India:

7.2.1 World Book Day : 23rd April is celebrated as Vishva Pustak Diwas

7.2.2 The Jaipur Literature Festival is held in Jaipur every year in the month of January. The Jaipur Literature Festival is considered to be the biggest literary festival in Asia which attracts thousands of writers and visitors from all over the world. Jaipur Literature Festival celebrates the brilliance of Indian as well as International writers. It includes a huge range of activities such as discussions, debates, workshops and poetry. One of the unique attractions of this festival is the live performances given by famous musicians. Jaipur Literature Festival has been taking place in Jaipur since the year 2006.

7.2.3 The National Library Week is celebrated from 14th to 21st November every year in India

8. Examples of collaboration between the reporting Library and Publishers in your country/region.

The National Library is the implementing agency of the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act 1954 in accordance with this Act all the Indian Publishers are legally bound to deposit one copy of the publication to the Library. Thus the National Library serves as a permanent repository of all reading and information materials produced in India, all printed materials authored by Indians and materials concerning India irrespective of language, nationality of author and place of publication